

# World Conqueror and World Renouncer

---

A STUDY OF BUDDHISM AND POLITY  
IN THAILAND AGAINST A  
HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

S. J. Tambiah

*Professor of Anthropology  
Harvard University*

Cambridge University Press

Cambridge  
London · New York · Melbourne



# Contents

Acknowledgments	vii
-----------------	-----

## PART ONE

1	Introduction: Reconstructing a Journey	3
2	From <i>Rajadharma</i> (the King's "Whole Duty") to <i>Dharmaraja</i> (the "Righteous Ruler")	9
3	The Brahmanical Theory of Society and Kingship	19
4	The Early Buddhist Conception of World Process, Dharma, and Kingship	32
5	Asoka Maurya: The Paradigm	54
6	Thai Kingship and Polity in Historical Perspective	73
7	The Galactic Polity	102
8	The Kingdom of Ayutthaya: Design and Process	132
9	Asokan and Sinhalese Traditions Concerning the Purification of the Sangha	159
10	The Sangha and the Polity: From Ayutthaya to Bangkok	179
11	The Nineteenth-Century Achievements of Religion and Sangha Appendix to Chapter 11: The Symbolization of Monarchy in the Nineteenth Century	200 225
12	The Sangha Acts of 1902, 1941, and 1963	230

## PART TWO

13	The Composition and Distribution of Religious Personnel: What the Figures Say	265
14	Monkhood as an Avenue of Social Mobility	288
15	Monastic Careers and Monastic Network Appendix to Chapter 15: Monastic Networks in Christian Europe and Thailand	313 360
16	Patronage of the Sangha and the Legitimation of the Polity	365
17	Reformism and Ideological Transformation Based on Tradition	401
18	Missionary Monks ( <i>Thammathud</i> ) and National Development Appendix to Chapter 18: The Monks' Universities	434 464

19	The Politics of National Development and the Symbols of Legitimacy	472
20	Dialectical Tensions, Continuities, Transformations, and the Uses of the Past	515
	Bibliography	531
	Index	541